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## Send your submissions for About Visual Arts

With About Visual Arts, *State of the Arts* continues to profile living Montana artists (no students, please), whose work is the focus of a current exhibit (on display during some portion of the two months covered by the current issue of *State of the Arts*).

Submissions must include:

- A digital image of the artist's work, with title of the piece;
  - A brief bio and description of the artist's work (up to 300 words);
  - Dates and title of exhibit; and
  - The gallery or museum name, town and phone number.
- MAC will select submissions that reflect a cross-section of gender, geography, styles and ethnicity, and are from a mix of public and private galleries and museums.

Deadline for submissions for the July/August is June 1. Please send submissions to [writeus@livelytimes.com](mailto:writeus@livelytimes.com) with About Visual Arts in the subject line.

## ABOUT VISUAL ARTISTS

### Josh DeWeese: "A Point in Time"

Through Aug. 24 at Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art in Great Falls

Artist's website: [www.deweeseart.com/Josh/](http://www.deweeseart.com/Josh/)



Pitcher by Josh DeWeese

Josh DeWeese is a ceramic artist and educator who is currently an assistant art professor, teaching ceramics at Montana State University in Bozeman. He and his wife, ceramic artist Rosalie Wynkoop, recently built a home and studio in Bozeman – the town where DeWeese grew up, the son of well-known Montana artists Bob and Gennie DeWeese.

His exhibition at Paris Gibson Square features a range of pottery forms, including covered jars,

platters, baskets, various pouring vessels, and cups.

He describes the show this way: "The jars and platters serve as a platform for the exploration of narrative, with drawings enveloping the forms, emerging in and out of the glazed surface. The larger vessels become paintings in the round, and I am interested in how the image unfolds as you move around the pot."

The baskets and pouring forms are animated, and reference the figure. The cups, he says, "are perhaps the most intimate. I enjoy the potential of the daily kiss, and their future interaction in the hand and the home."

The artist earned an MFA from the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred, and a BFA from the Kansas City Art Institute. He served as resident director of the Archie Bray Foundation for the Ceramic Arts in Helena from 1992-2006.

DeWeese has exhibited and taught workshops internationally and his work is included in numerous public and private collections.

### Ray Campeau, "From Dingle to Dublin"

Through May at Main Stope Gallery in Butte, with a reception during the Art Walk, 5-9 p.m. May 3

Artist's website: [www.campeau-artist.com](http://www.campeau-artist.com)

Butte-born Ray Campeau returns to his hometown in May to exhibit new paintings, created from sketches done during a trip to Ireland last summer.

Campeau was born and raised in Butte, and received his early education from the town's Catholic schools and its "colorful, notorious streets." After a stint in the Navy, he returned to Montana and earned a bachelor's in applied art at Montana State College (now Montana State University in Bozeman), and later a master's degree.

His teaching career was anchored at Bozeman High School, where he taught art for 33 years. "But my moonlighting allowed me to work with students from kindergarten to grad school, teach private classes and workshops and teach art as many as five evenings a week in communities that were 120 miles or less from Bozeman," he writes.

But teaching art wasn't his only vocation. He also moonlighted as a laborer, auto repairman, steel worker, apprentice carpenter, truck driver, cab driver, draughtsman, waiter, bartender, clerk, surveyor, golf-club manager, electronics technician, gallery owner and art director, and two-dimensional painter. "Every job taught me something valuable about the way the world works," he says.

He's also contributed to a number of national arts-centered organizations, and gathered a slew of awards along the way. He was named Montana Art Teacher of the Year in 1982, and the Pacific Region Art Educator of the Year by the National Art Education Association in 1990; and he received the Governor's Award for Service to the Arts in 1987, and the Herald McGrath Award from the Butte-Silver Bow Chamber of Commerce in 2011.

Campeau and his wife, Kay, live in Bozeman, where "I still paint, own and direct galleries, and teach and promote art activities everywhere I can."



"Dingle Houses" by Ray Campeau



Blanketflower mock-up, drawing and seed packet by Courtney Blazon

### Courtney Blazon, "A Seedy Affair"

May 3-31 at 4 Ravens Gallery in Missoula, with a reception during the Art Walk, 5-8 p.m. May 3

Artist's website: [courtneyblazon.blogspot.com](http://courtneyblazon.blogspot.com)

"A Seedy Affair" highlights the unique collaboration between Courtney Blazon and Native Ideals Seed Farm in Arlee, which commissioned the artist to create drawings for their seed packets. Framed pieces feature the artist's original mock-up sketches, the final original drawing and a completed seed packet.

The Missoula artist and illustrator is inspired by the natural, the real, and the historical, and combines elements from these different references into a cohesive narrative.

"I think that the major theme in all my artwork is what I see as the inner-connectedness of all things, that all stories, real and imagined, are woven from the same fabric and all that fabric needs is some new stitching to make new connections," she wrote in the ArtSeen blog, October 2012.

Blazon's work has been shown at several local galleries, including the Missoula Art Museum, the Dana Gallery, the Brink, and 4 Ravens, as well as in Portland and Seattle. She has also been a featured artist on Google's [artistaday.com](http://artistaday.com) and the art blog, [myloveforyouisastampedeofhorses.com](http://myloveforyouisastampedeofhorses.com), and was featured in the online arts journal [hoboeye.com](http://hoboeye.com), at [juxtapoz.com](http://juxtapoz.com) and on the blog [artseen.com](http://artseen.com).

Blazon earned a BFA in illustration from Parsons School of Design, and has created illustrations for Montana Lyric Opera, Shakespeare and Co., Missoula Oblongata, *CutBank Literary Journal*, the *Missoula Independent*, *Montana Headwall Magazine*, Native Ideals Seed Company, the Missoula MADE Fair, and [digthischick.com](http://digthischick.com). In 2011 she was honored with a Montana Arts Council Artist's Innovation Award.

"I find inspiration in almost anything," she says.

### Featured Artist: Cliff Potts

Through May at Sandstone Gallery in Billings with a reception during the Art Walk, 5-9 p.m. May 4

Artist's website: [www.cliffpotts.com](http://www.cliffpotts.com)

Cliff Potts, who grew up near the small town of Custer, contracted polio at 15 and nearly died. He lost the use of his arms and legs and spent many months in an iron lung.

That experience also left him with a profound spirituality, beginning with the realization that every breath he took was a gift from God.

He later attended Eastern Montana College in Billings, earning a bachelor's degree in art, followed by a master's in counseling in 1970. That same year, he married and began a family, which grew to include four children.

Using a tongue-controlled electric "golden arm" to manipulate his left arm, Potts creates original artwork in pen and ink, watercolors and oils, as well as limited edition prints and cards. He says the daily painting exercises help him reach "another level of possibility in both subtly of

color and design."

Many of his drawings and paintings reflect his rural Montana heritage. "I enjoy painting everyday scenes that illustrate the lifestyle and genuine spirit out here. From the hills of Havre country to the plains of Castle Buttes, there are stories to be told on canvas or etched by pen all across this great state."

Hope is also a predominant thread in the artist's life, which he frequently expresses through the use of vibrant color. No matter what the medium or subject, his artistic vision brings him back, time and again, to the lessons he learned as a boy: awe for the majesty of creation, a belief in the power of God, and the knowledge that survival takes teamwork.

Indeed, not only his artwork, but his entire life has been shaped around those lessons.

The May exhibit at Sandstone also includes jewelry by Jeannine Deiling and paintings by Jeanne Broveak.

Compiled by Kristi Niemeyer



"Branding" by Cliff Potts